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INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, FEBRUARY 1984

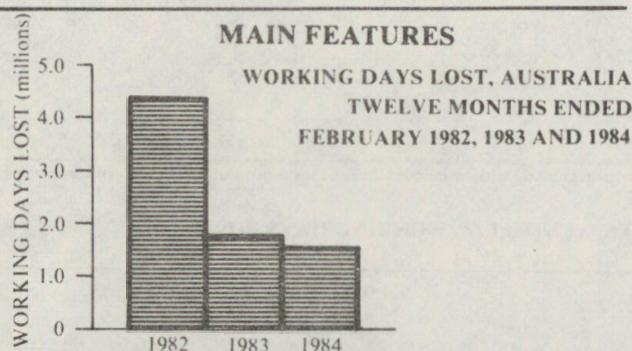
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PHONE INQUIRIES for more information about these statistics—contact Mr Trevor Allan on Canberra (062) 52 7136 or any of our State offices.

other inquiries including copies of publications—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.

MAIL INQUIRIES

write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.



During February 1984, 94,500 working days were lost by 23,500 workers in 155 industrial disputes.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

Earlier issues of this publication have included details of the estimated loss in wages due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 5 below). From January 1984 these details have been suspended, because they do not accurately represent actual amounts of wages and salaries lost by workers involved. For a number of reasons, it is not feasible to obtain a reasonable measure of wages lost. Often wages lost in a particular dispute are made up through working longer hours after the dispute has ended. In a number of instances, resumption of work has been conditional upon there being no loss of wages by employees involved, for the duration of the dispute. Also, some workers involved in disputes may obtain work at other establishments while the dispute is in progress. In compiling data on wages lost, heavy reliance has had to be placed on estimation of details on the basis of working days (or hours) lost and the estimated average daily (or hourly) wage or salary of the employees involved. Apart from the deficiencies described, the estimated loss in wages details were of limited applicability, as they related only to losses due directly to industrial disputes and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole.

Coverage

2. The statistics relate only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred.

3. The figures of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 5) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Details shown in this publication refer to all disputes in progress during the reference period indicated.

4. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

Definitions

5. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.

6. *Workers involved* include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

7. Differences between monthly and annual totals of workers involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Workers re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

8. *Working days lost* refer to man-days lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of workers involved and the duration of the dispute.

9. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Working days lost in agriculture, etc. and in private households employing staff have been excluded.

10. The estimates of employees are obtained from the Labour Force survey.

Other ABS publications

11. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:
Labour Statistics, Australia, 1982 (6101.0)
Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0)—quarterly and annual
The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—monthly

12. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- nil or rounded to zero
- r revised

13. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R.J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)	
1981	2,887	2,915	1,229.1	1,251.8	4,192.2
1982	2,045	2,060	691.3	722.9	2,158.0
1983	1,780	1,788	453.2	470.6	1,641.4
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>					
February 1982	2,818	2,887	1,215.1	1,258.6	4,377.3
February 1983	1,956	1,976	630.7	665.1	1,772.1
February 1984	1,744	1,774	428.2	448.8	1,562.6
<i>1983—</i>					
March	165	195	39.5	54.5	179.9
April	94	113	15.9	33.5	235.9
May	141	166	31.0	50.9	174.5
June	164	183	50.4	52.9	100.5
July	179	209	41.9	60.0	148.1
August	192	224	65.8	73.1	146.9
September	146	173	27.0	39.2	103.3
October	181	208	59.7	70.2	124.3
November	171	192	37.3	46.1	136.9
December	88	102	24.1	33.1	83.3
<i>1984—</i>					
January	r78	r85	r13.7	r22.8	r34.6
February	145	155	22.1	23.5	94.5

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises workers involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional workers involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	Manufacturing								
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication		Other industries (a)	All industries
	Coal	Other				Communication	Transport		
1981	318.3	307.4	1,221.6	654.1	441.9	465.5	783.3	4,192.2	
1982	525.8	157.1	241.8	333.0	231.1	296.2	373.1	2,158.0	
1983	122.8	194.7	155.8	120.7	337.2	r215.4	r494.8	1,641.4	
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>									
February 1982	702.6	281.2	1,193.2	646.1	450.0	454.7	649.5	4,377.3	
February 1983	143.5	159.9	235.2	319.5	240.4	331.8	341.8	1,772.1	
February 1984	110.9	186.1	140.0	136.9	307.3	140.8	540.5	1,562.6	
<i>1983—</i>									
March	16.0	2.7	29.3	11.5	45.2	4.7	70.6	179.9	
April	2.8	9.2	14.9	4.3	21.4	1.7	181.6	235.9	
May	16.4	5.9	4.8	10.7	15.5	9.3	111.8	174.5	
June	5.3	11.4	8.1	9.2	22.9	13.8	29.9	100.5	
July	8.7	22.0	17.7	16.3	29.7	(b)	10.3	148.1	
August	12.1	40.1	18.8	25.3	33.4	4.8	12.4	146.9	
September	9.3	50.2	8.5	11.7	12.5	3.5	7.6	103.3	
October	12.3	12.2	8.6	7.3	36.6	8.7	38.4	124.3	
November	17.3	13.2	13.8	8.8	60.7	3.8	19.4	136.9	
December	3.1	7.0	5.5	2.4	18.4	44.4	2.5	83.3	
<i>1984—</i>									
January	r3.0	7.1	2.2	r16.5	0.6	1.9	3.4	r34.6	
February	4.7	5.1	7.9	12.9	10.3	0.9	52.6	94.5	

(a) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L. (b) Not available for publication.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (a)
1981	1,918.6	1,235.5	465.8	158.8	244.0	64.3	4,192.2
1982	961.6	368.0	509.8	66.6	162.4	61.5	2,158.0
1983	801.2	257.7	135.3	87.4	270.6	67.8	1,641.4
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
February 1982	2,050.0	1,219.7	518.3	164.8	259.2	64.4	4,377.3
February 1983	688.1	361.3	440.3	53.3	145.1	57.9	1,772.1
February 1984	745.3	241.1	130.7	91.3	261.7	70.2	1,562.6
<i>1983—</i>							
March	83.9	24.4	15.4	28.1	25.9	1.9	179.9
April	157.5	22.0	4.6	35.1	12.4	4.0	235.9
May	128.8	19.7	5.0	9.3	6.2	5.1	174.5
June	57.8	11.7	10.7	1.0	10.4	7.0	100.5
July	86.7	15.0	19.8	1.3	21.7	3.2	148.1
August	39.6	41.8	17.1	5.5	29.4	11.7	146.9
September	17.2	11.3	19.8	3.8	32.8	14.2	103.3
October	41.1	31.2	8.9	1.0	33.3	5.9	124.3
November	38.4	8.6	10.4	0.8	62.2	12.9	136.9
December	10.6	44.5	1.9	0.6	20.7	1.3	83.3
<i>1984—</i>							
January	20.6	5.0	r2.5	1.4	2.3	r0.6	r34.6
February	63.2	5.8	14.6	3.6	4.5	2.4	94.5

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

**CHART 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES
TWELVE MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY 1983 AND 1984**

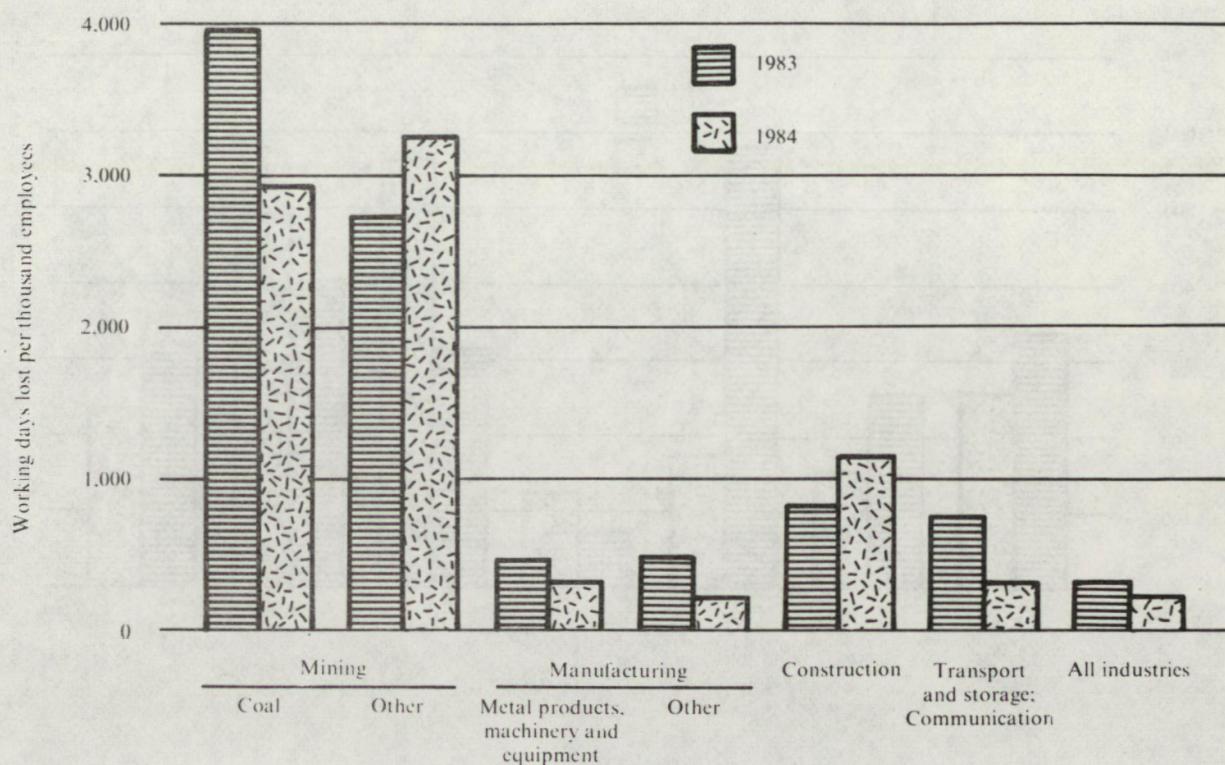


TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

Period	Manufacturing							All industries (a)	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries		
	Coal	Other							
1981	10,011	5,141	2,285	989	1,423	1,104	239	800	
1982	14,483	2,691	487	512	782	670	85	396	
1983	3,240	3,399	348	186	1,269	489	42	249	
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>									
February 1983	3,952	2,738	474	492	814	751	76	322	
February 1984	2,927	3,248	313	211	1,157	320	56	234	

(a) Excluding agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff.

**CHART 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES,
TWELVE MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY 1983 AND 1984**

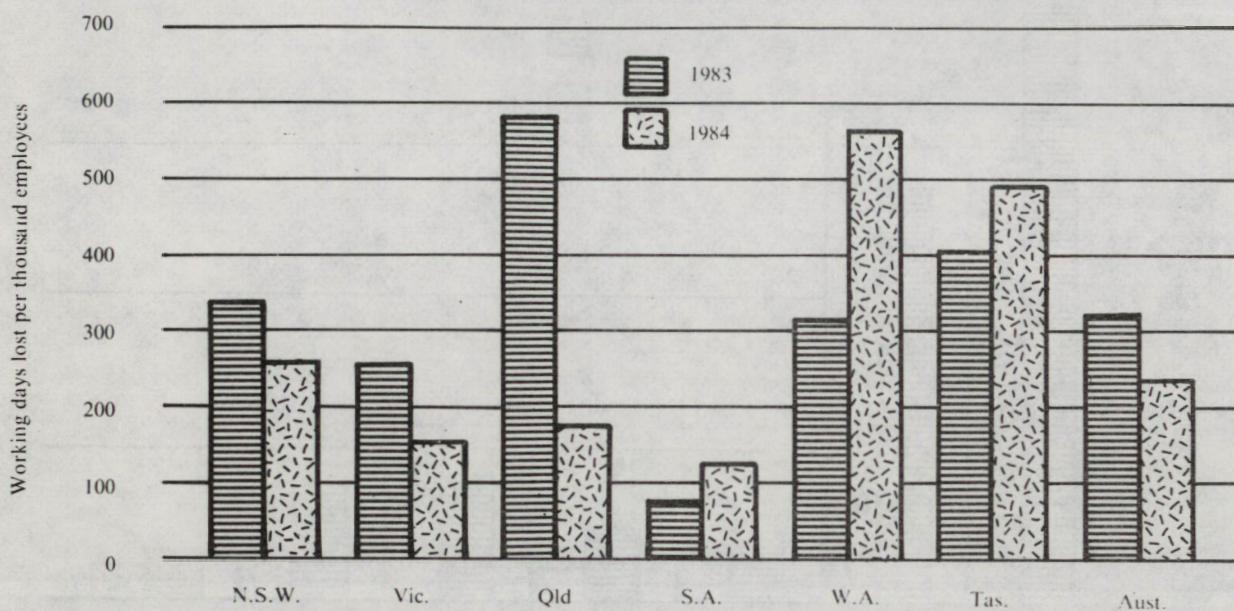


TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
1981	1,028	865	624	320	552	456	800
1982	481	260	672	102	352	432	396
1983	288	163	178	114	581	471	249
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
February 1983	335	255	580	73	314	405	322
February 1984	257	151	172	123	561	489	234

(a) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.